

For questions 9-16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

Example: (0) INTO

Practical effects

Are you **0** _____ movies? If you at least a slightly bit interested in the enigmatic world of film-making, you **9** _____ be aware that most special effects nowadays are computer-generated. What this means **10** _____ the explosions, car crashes and other exciting things that happen **11** _____ the screen actually never take place. Instead, they are rendered using a powerful computer and then added to the picture in post-production.

While CGI (computer-generated imagery) is virtually impossible to tell **12** _____ real special effects, some movie enthusiasts believe that knowing it is all fake takes **13** _____ from the joy of watching movies. Some directors dismiss this criticism, calling the viewers pampered, petulant, even ungrateful. Others heed the fans' demands, introducing real pyrotechnics, weather effects, and even simulated bullet wounds. However, these film-makers fight a losing **14** _____, as going with the real thing means much higher production costs and a more complicated filming process.

Another reason to choose computer graphics is the available talent. New technology specialists are readily available, whereas old-school professionals are hard to **15** _____ by nowadays. This means that finding one takes time and money – a resource film producers **16** _____ always tried to be frugal with. So if there is somebody to blame, then it's the economy, not the stingy film-makers!

Answers and explanations

9. **Must/should.** We have a condition and its result – if you know anything about movies, you are very likely to know that computers are extensively used for special effects.
10. **Is.** ‘What this means is...’ is the case of a cleft sentence – a special structure that makes the message more emphatic (adds expression to it).
11. **On.** Note that it is ‘on the screen’, but ‘in the picture, in the photo’. Prepositions can be very misleading if you use your native language as a point of reference.
12. **From.** ‘To tell something from something else’ means to be able to see the difference between these two things, to distinguish them.
13. **Away.** The idea here is that knowing the special effects are not ‘real’ makes the film much less enjoyable. ‘To take away from something’ is to make it less valuable or desirable.
14. **Battle.** If you fight a losing battle, it means you are trying to achieve something that is unlikely to happen, or there are some factors that prevent you from achieving that.
15. **Come.** A thing, person or quality that is hard to come by is rare, and therefore difficult to find.
16. **Have.** Interestingly, we can technically leave this gap empty and turn a present perfect sentence into a past simple one without hurting the meaning. However, in CAE Use of English Part 2 no gap should be left empty – so we add the auxiliary ‘have’ to complete a past perfect sentence.

Pampered (adj) – (about a person) spoiled through excessive indulgence, because they were allowed to do or have too much of something they want.

Petulant (adj) – unreasonably demanding, easily irritated.

Heed (v) – if you heed something, you take it into consideration. This is usually said about warnings, pieces of advice and so on.

Frugal (adj) – if you are frugal with something, you try to use it sparingly, not to use more than required in order to save it.

Stingy (adj) – not ready or willing to spend money.